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**OCT
#113**



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EVOLUTIONARY™**

EXCALIBUR



**COLLOSSUS and MEGGAN -
CORNERED IN
WUNDAGORE!**

DIRECT EDITION



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MEET

EXCALIBUR



United to preserve the dream of Professor Charles Xavier, they have sought to extend the message of the X-Men beyond the shores of America. Operating out of their headquarters on Muir Island in Scotland, they've sworn to defend mutantkind from a world that both hates and fears them, for they are... EXCALIBUR!



NIGHTCRAWLER

Nightcrawler: Born with the mutant ability to teleport short distances, stick to walls and ceilings, and turn virtually invisible when in deep shadows, the German-born Kurt Wagner is the blue-skinned leader of Excalibur.



SHADOWCAT

American-born Kitty Pryde has the mutant ability to turn her body intangible and walk on air with but a thought. Trained in the ways of the Samurai and the ninja, Shadowcat's physical prowess is balanced by her brilliant mind and her formal X-Men training.



COLOSSUS

The Russian mutant born Piotr Rasputin is the powerhouse of Excalibur. His artistic heart is masked by his cold, hard exterior, as Colossus has the ability to transform his flesh and blood into a form of impervious organic steel!



WOLFSBANE

Rahne Sinclair is the youngest member of Excalibur, but her mutant ability to transform from a shy young woman to a human/wolf hybrid and to a complete wolf makes her a force to be reckoned with!



MEGGAN

Linked to the elemental forces of Great Britain as a faerie, the enigmatic but naive Meggan has the ability to change her physical form at will, as well as the power to shape the very forces of nature to fit her needs.



PETE WISDOM

A former intelligence operative with the mutant ability to generate "hot knives". Boyfriend to Kitty Pryde, he remains a reluctant member of Excalibur.



PREVIOUSLY
IN...

EXCALIBUR



A bomb detonated in the cockpit of the plane that Colossus and Meggan were using to fly back to Muir Island. The craft crashed in the snow-covered terrain of the Swiss Alps.



Surviving the crash-landing Colossus carried the injured and quite delirious Meggan through miles of frozen trails which eventually led to the mysterious tower of Wundagore!



Meanwhile Nightcrawler and Pete Wisdom discovered the wonders of Kassel, Germany's night life as they searched for Peckman, a woman from Wisdom's past before his Black Air days. Unfortunately she ambushed them unexpectedly.

DAWN ON MUIR
ISLAND -- THE
WORLD'S FOREMOST
CENTER FOR GENETIC
RESEARCH...

...AND HOME TO
THAT INTERNATIONAL
TEAM OF HEROES,

EXCALIBUR

I'LL
NAE GO IF N'
YE SAY SO,
MUMMY.

Och,
DINNAE BE
SUCH A SAPSY
BAIRN.

GO
SEE YUIR
FRIENDS. HAVE A
GOOD TIME AT YUIR
"NEW MUTANTS
REUNION".

BUT
WHAT IF YUIR
CONDITION GETS
WORSE...?

DON'T YE
GO FRETIN'
ABOUT ME.

SUREN
I'LL MISS YE
LOTS...

STAN LEE PRESENTS

BEN RAAB
STORY
**RICHARD STARKINGS
& COMICRAFT/KS**
LETTERS

PETE WOODS
PENCILS
**KEVIN
TINGLEY**
COLORS

SCOTT KOBLISH
INKS
**MATT IDELSON &
KELLY CORVESE**
EDITORS

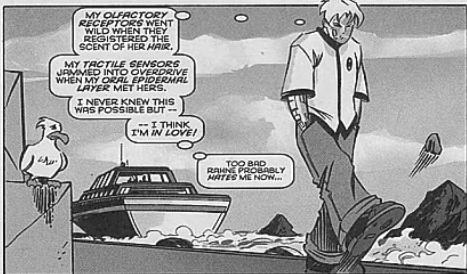
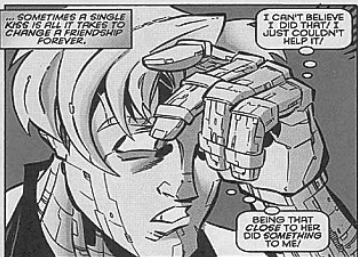
**BOB
HARRAS**
CHIEF

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MEANWHILE, DEEP
WITHIN A REMOTE
VALLEY IN THE SWISS
ALPS...

... AT THE FOOT OF
THE LEGENDARY
MAGIC MOUNTAIN
KNOWN TO A SCARCE
FEW AS WUNDAGORE.

LAST NIGHT, A JET
AIRLINER EXPLODED
AND CRASHED NOT
TOO FAR FROM
THIS MAJESTIC SITE.

ITS UNFORTUNATE
PASSENGERS...P

PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH
KRASPUTIN -- THE
ARMORED MUTANT
KNOWN AS COLOSSUS...

... AND HIS ELFIN
TEAMMATE --
MEGGAN, THE
ELEMENTAL.

DESPITE A RAGING BLIZZARD,
THEY TRUDGED TIRELESSLY
FROM PEAK TO FROZEN PEAK
SEARCHING FOR SHELTER.

THEY
FAILED.

AND AS A NEW DAY BEGINS, OUR
HEROES' FIERCE STRUGGLE FOR
SURVIVAL AT LAST COMES TO A
CHILLING END.

OR DOES IT...P

TSK.
TSK TSK.
NOW'S NO TIME
TO BE LAZING
IN THE SNOW,
CHILDREN.

THERE'S
WAR ON THE
HORIZON!

Unknown...
WH-WHO ARE
YOU...P

AAAAH...
WH-WHAT DO YOU
WANT?



THE
CREATOR HAS
NAMED ME
BOVA.

AND I
WANT NOTHING
MORE THAN TO SEE
YOU SAFELY OUT
OF HARM'S WAY
BEFORE IT'S TOO
LATE!



"BOVA"... WHY IS
YOUR NAME SO
FAMILIAR?

LONG
HAVE I BEEN A
FRIEND AND
ALLY TO OTHER
COSTUMED
ADVENTURERS...
THOSE KNOWN AS
AVENGERS --

-- BUT
THAT IS OF
NO IMPORT
NOW.

THIS LITTLE
ONE REQUIRES
THE CREATOR'S
IMMEDIATE
MEDICAL
ATTENTION!

I --
I'LL BE FINE,
THANK YOU --
NEED T'GET
ON MY FEET
AGAIN.



HO THERE,
COW!

TAIN'T
WISE TO BE
DOLING ALMS
OF SUCCOR TO
THE WAYWARD
AT AN HOUR
SO DIRE!

OH, DO
LET US PASS,
GOOD SIR BAVA.
THE GIRL IS
WOUNDED.



AND WOUNDED
SHE WILL STAY!
FOR BY MY
HORNS --

-- I
RECOGNIZE
HER COHORT AS
ONE OF THE
ENEMY!

"ENEMY"?

COMRADE,
PLEASE...



... I'VE
NEVER SEEN YOU
BEFORE!



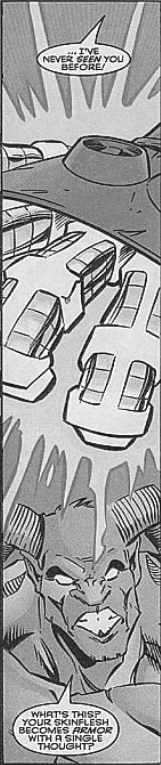
SUCH
TRICKERY SHAN'T
SPARE YOU THE WRATH
OF A KNIGHT OF
WUNDAGORE!



IT IS MY
LIFE'S CHARGE
TO PROTECT THIS
SACRED MOUNTAIN
FROM ALL WHO
WOULD DARE USURP
ITS ANCIENT
MYSTERIES!

AND BY THE
CREATOR --

**YOU
SHALL NOT
HAVE THEM!**



WHAT'S THIS?
YOUR SKINFLESH
BECOMES ARMOR
WITH A SINGLE
THOUGHT?



"WUNDAGORE" --
WHY DO I KNOW
THAT NAME?

TOVARISCH,
I KNOW NOT WHO
YOU ASSUME ME
TO BE --

KROM!



-- BUT
I AM NOT
YOUR
ENEMY!

Liar!
YOU ARE
AN APOLYTE --
ONE OF THE
VILE EXODUS'S
LOATHSOME
BROOD!

HATE TO
DISAPPOINT YOU,
"SIR RAM", BUT YOU
HAVE CONFUSED
THE MAN I AM
NOW --

-- WITH
THE MAN
I ONCE
WAS!

BUT YOU
DO NOT SERVE
THAT HATEFUL
MONSTER!
I SAW
YOUR IMAGE IN
THE CREATOR'S
PICTURE BOXES!



AS I SAID... THAT WAS PAST
HISTORY, I SERVE NO MAN
BUT MYSELF NOW.

BUT
IF EXODUS
THREATENS THE
SANCTITY OF YOUR
HOME AS YOU
SAY --

-- I
WOULD
BE HONORED
TO STAND
BEHIND YOU --
AGAINST
HIM.

YOUR SOUL IS AS
NOBLE AS YOUR
ARM IS STRONG,
METAL MAN.



YOU WILL BE A GREAT
ASSET TO OUR
CAUSE.

BUT TELL ME --
WHAT GOOD WILL
THIS LITTLE MINX DO
US IN BATTLE?

scratch
scratch



WHOOSH



DUSSSEL, GERMANY —
THE DOCUMENTARY
ART ARCHIVES.

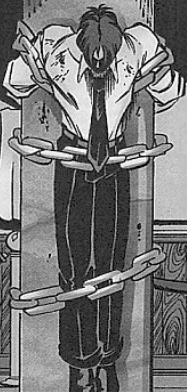
SOME WORKS ARE BIZARRE...
OTHERS ABSURD... BUT TO
THE EVER-CRITICAL EYES OF
"AVANT GARDE SOCIETY",
THEY ARE ALL EXPRESSIONS
OF GENIUS.

WHICH BEGS THE
QUESTION, "WHAT
ABOUT THE ART
OF TORTURE?"

DOES IT NOT MERIT SUCH PRAISE
WHEN EXECUTED BY A MASTER
WHOSE DEFTNESS IN THE WAYS
OF PAIN IS CONVEYED THROUGH
THE AGONY OF HIS VICTIM?

THE "VICTIM" OF THIS
PARTICULAR PIECE,
HOWEVER, MIGHT BEG
TO DIFFER.

EVERY FIVE YEARS,
THE MODERN ART
MASTERPIECES
STORED WITHIN
THESE HALLOWED
WALLS ARE TAKEN
OUT AND PUT ON
PUBLIC DISPLAY.



THEN AGAIN, FORMER
SPY, PETE WISDOM
NEVER BEGS FOR
ANYTHING.

Uhhh...
WHERE AM
I?

NOT EVEN
HIS LIFE.

LAST THING I REMEMBER
WAS GETTIN' LECTURED
BY NIGHTCRAWLER
ABOUT BEIN' A
TEAM PLAYER...

... WAIT --
WHERE IS
WAGNER..?

'CRAWLER...
YOU THERE?

LOOKING
FOR YOUR
FRIEND? YOU
WON'T FIND
HIM HERE.

NICE
VOX FILTER,
GIRL -- BUT YA
CAN'T FOOL
ME.



YER HEARING'S
AS ACUTE AS EVER,
OL' CODGER.

THEN
WHY NOT STEP
OUT INTO THE
LIGHT SO I CAN
GET A LOOK
AT'CHA?

COR,
PETE -- I'M
INSULTED.



YA USED T'BE ABLE
T'SEE ME WIF YER EYES
CLOSED -- THAT'S
HOW WELL YA
KNEW ME!

YEAH,
WELL -- OUT
O' SIGHT... OUT
O' MIND.

BUT I SEE YER
STILL AS CAGEY A BIRD
AS EVER. STILL DOIN' THAT
VANISHIN' TRICK O' YERS...

"HIDIN' IN PLAIN
SIGHT" AN' SUCH.



JUST QUIT MUCKIN'
ABOUT, ST. HUBBINS --
AND TELL ME WOT'S
GOIN' DOWN.

WOT'S
THIS THING ON
MY NECK?



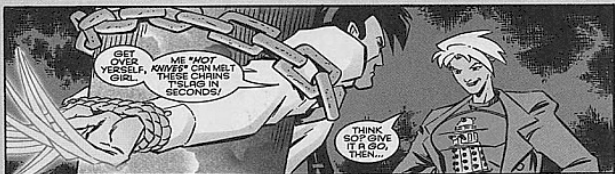
MY MY MY...
YER MEMORY SURE
IS GETTING DODGY
IN YER OLD AGE,
PETEY.

I'LL
JUST LEAVE
THAT UP T'YOU
T'IGGER
OUT.

AND
SEEM' AS
HOW YA AIN'T
GOIN' NOWHERE, I
MIGHT AS WELL
TELL YA,
LUV.

YER
GONNA
DIE --

-- AND I'M YER
EXECUTIONER!



GET
OVER
YOURSELF,
GIRL.

ME "NOT
KNIVES" CAN MELT
THESE CHAINS
T'SLAG IN
SECONDS!

THINK
SO? GIVE
IT A GO,
THEN...



ARCH!

ZZOW



NEURAL
INHIBITOR.

TAP
TAP

FRIES...
MUTANT'S
NERVOUS
SYSTEM...
WHENEVER
ONE... USES
THEIR POWERS.



BUT
THAT'S TOP
CLEARANCE
SPECIAL ISSUE
HARDWARE --

-- ONLY
FOR USE BY THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT
MUTANT GROUP
X-FACTOR
OR... AGENTS
OF BLACK
PEARL



BINGO.



NO... NOT
AGAIN...

AND AS PETE WISDOM
REALIZES THERE'S A
NASTY STORM A'BREWIN'
ON THE HORIZON FOR
HIM AND HIS MATES...



...THE ASSEMBLED KNIGHTS OF
WINDGORE PREPARE FOR A
TEMPEST OF THEIR OWN UNDER
THE GUIDANCE OF THE
REPTILIAN LORD GATOR...

...AND THE GRIZZLY
LADY URSULA!

WELL DELPHIS --
ARE ALL YOUR
PROTECTIVE
WARDS IN
PLACE..?



FOR NOW -- BUT
I DON'T KNOW HOW
LONG THEY'LL
HOLD!



IN ALL
OUR YEARS,
WE'VE NEVER ONCE
FACED A FOE AS
DEADLY AS
EXODUS!

HE OUGHT TO
PROVE A MOST
MYSTIFYING
CHALLENGE!

I, FOR
ONE, LOOK
FORWARD TO
TESTING HIS
METTLE!



THAT'S BECAUSE
YOU WON'T BE
FIGHTING ON
THE FRONT
LINES.

EPISY,
URSULA.

WAIT --
WHAT'S THIS..?



*HAS SIR RAM
LOST HIS MIND..?*

WELL
MET, FELLOW
WARRIORS!
BEHOLD!

I HAVE WON ALLIES TO OUR
CAUSE AND BROUGHT
REINFORCEMENTS!



IMBECILE! YOU'VE BUTTED
YOUR HEAD SO MANY
TIMES --

-- YOU'VE
KNOCKED ALL
THE SENSE OUT
OF IT!

GRRRR.



NO,
GATOR!
THIS ONE HAS
RENOUNCED HIS
COVENANT WITH
EXODUS.

HE AND
HIS FLAXEN-HAIRED
COMPANION HAVE PLEDGED
THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO US
FOR THE COMING
BATTLE!



AND THE
SERPENT HIDES
ITSELF INNOCENTLY
AMONG BLADES OF
GRASS BEFORE
STRIKING ITS
PREY.

HOW
DO WE KNOW
THAT YOU'VE
NOT LID A WIFE
INTO OUR
MIDST?

BECAUSE
YOU HAVE MY
WORD.

I WILL
TELL YOU
PRECISELY
HOW EXODUS
WOULD STORM A
TOWER AS WELL-
FORTIFIED AS
THIS.

FIRST,
HE --



THAT
WILL NOT BE
NECESSARY,
X-MAN.

I HAVE
SEEN TO IT
PERSONALLY
THAT MY KNIGHTS
POSSESS ALL OF THE
KNOWLEDGE THEY
NEED TO REPEL THE
RENEGADE...

THE
CREATOR
SPARKS!

IT IS A VOICE FROM
THE PAST WHICH
PIOTR RASPUTIN
WELL REMEMBERS...



... BUT NEVER
EXPECTED TO
HEAR AGAIN.

BOZHE
MOL?
YOU?!



BACK AT MUIR ISLAND...

HAVE YOU SEEN KITTY PRYDE, Dr. MacTAGGERT?

BRIEFLY.



EVER SINCE SHE GOT HOME, SHE'S BEEN LOOKIN' F'R THAT PET DRAGON O'HERS.

I GUESS THE WEE BUGGER'S BEEN MISSIN' F'R SOME TIME.

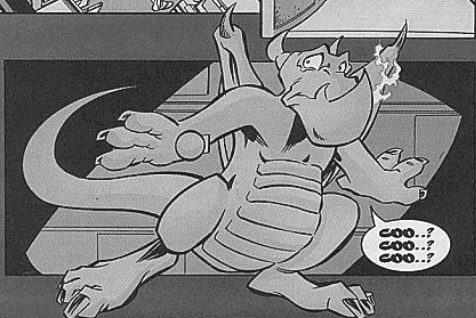
HMP. YET NO ONE SEEMED TO NOTICE...P

"WELL, THINGS HAVE BEEN RATHER HECTIC LATELY."

"WITH ALL THE COMMOTION, SEEMS WE FORGOT TO CHECK UP ON 'IM."

"BUT THERE'S NO REAL CAUSE FOR WORRY --"

"--- LOCKHEED'S NAE SCARED O' ANYTHIN'!"



COO...?
COO...?
COO...?



DROP
THE "MUTE"
ACT, DRAGON.
WE KNOW
YOU CAN
TALK!

WE SAID...
DROP IT!

MUTT...



ARIGHT... IT'S
DROPPED! IT'S
DROPPED!



"FRIENDS"?

"FRIENDS"!?

US... P BE
FRIENDS WITH
A LOSER LIKE
YOU...!

WHAT'CHOO
WAN' FROM ME?

I -- I
THOUGHT WE WUZ
F--FRIENDS!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!



KITTY...
SOMEBODY...
ANYBODY...

... HELP!

ABOVE THE ATLANTIC,
BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHT
1013 WINGS ITS WAY
TOWARDS NEW YORK....



... CARRYING AN
EXCITED RHANE
SINGULAR TO A
LONG OVERDUE
REUNION WITH
SOME OLD AND
DEAR FRIENDS.®

®YOU'RE INVITED TO
THE REUNION TOO!
CHECK IT OUT IN THE
NEXT MUTANTS LIMITED
SERIES, ON SALE IN
MAY! MILES
COLLECTOR ALL KEL



Z

IT'S GAUNRE BE
SO GOOD TEE
SEE SAM AND
ROBERTO AND
DANI AND
XTANI!

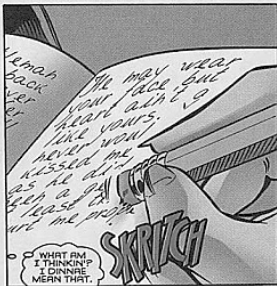
I
MISS 'EM
ALL SO
MUCH.

ONLY WISH
WEE ILLYANA
RASPUTIN' AN'
SWEET DOUG
RAMSEY COULD
BE THERE
ALSO.®

®BOTH ARE NOW DECEASED.
ILLYANA DIED IN JUNE 2013
DOUG RAMSEY DIED IN FEB
MUTANTS 46.



OCH, DOUG -- IF
ONLY DOUGLOCK
WAS MORE
LIKE YE.



He may wear
your face but
heart ain't it?
I'll never
never won't
kissed me
as he did
I'll be a girl
please to
me the proper

WHAT AM
I THINKIN'?
I DINNARE
MEAN THAT.

SKRITCH



DOUGLOCK'S
HEART IS JUST AS
SWEET AN' KIND AS
NAY OTHER PERSON
YE KNOW.

JUST
REMIT IT,
GIRL -- YE'RE
CONFUSED.

CONFUSED
BECAUSE A
FRIEND O'YOURS
HAS FEELINGS
FR YE.

FEELINGS
THE LIKES O'WHICH
YE'VE NAE GENUINELY
FELT FOR ANYONE
IN A LOOOONG
TIME.

'CUZ
WHEN HE
KISSED YE... YE
KISSED HIM BACK.
AN' YE KNOW
WHAT...?

I
THINK YE
ENJOYED
IT.



MUNDAGORE.

THERE ARE TWO THINGS IN MY POSSESSION EXODUS COVETS.

THE FIRST IS THIS VERY TOWER...

...WHERE THE HIDDEN MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE AND SORCERY ARE REVEALED AS ONE!

AND THE SECOND --

-- IS THIS GIRL.

DAUGHTER OF THE MUTANT SPEEDSTER, QUICKSILVER, AND HIS INHUMAN WIFE, CRYSTAL...

...LITTLE LUNA IS ALSO GRANDCHILD TO THE SELF-PROCLAIMED "MASTER OF MAGNETISM" -- EXODUS'S FORMER LOVER -- MAGNETO!

I HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT HER WHILE HER FATHER MOURNS THE TRAGIC PASSING OF HER MOTHER.

AND THOUGH EXODUS BE MAN, MUTANT OR EVEN GOD...

...I THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY -- SHALL NEVER FORFEIT HER!



YOU DO NOT REALIZE HOW RUTHLESS A FANATIC LIKE EXODUS CAN BE.

HE WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO CLAIM BOTH THIS TOWER AND THAT CHILD AS HIS OWN!

YOU MUST LET US STAND WITH YOU!



YOUR COURAGE IS AS ADMIRABLE NOW AS IT WAS THE LAST TIME WE MET, COLOSSUS.

BUT I HAVE ALL THE RESOURCES I REQUIRE TO PREVENT EXODUS FROM USURPING WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE ALONE.

© DURING THE "REVOLUTIONARY WAR" IN 1999, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY THE TOWER.



SO, YOU'RE JUST GONNA TOSS US OUT OF HERE --

-- WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A "BY YOUR LEAVE" --

-- BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO PROUD TO ACCEPT ANYONE'S HELP?

PRECISELY.





YOU SEE, DESPITE HIS LOYAL FOLLOWERS, EXODUS IS A KING WITHOUT A CASTLE...

...AND NO GOOD MONARCH CAN REMAIN ONE FOR LONG WITHOUT PROVING HIS MIGHT.

THUS HAVE I BECOME HIS TARGET -- THE ULTIMATE PROOF OF HIS FITNESS TO LEAD.

BUT I SHALL DEFEAT HIM. ALONE.



WAIT -- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

STOP! YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE!



ALAS, CHILD -- I CAN.

AND SO I WILL -- FOR I HAVE FAITH.

FARE-THEE-WELL ON THY JOURNEY, MUTANTS.

FOR THE PATH FROM WHICH YOU WERE DIVERTED --

"-- IS THE ONE
TO WHICH I NOW
RETURN YOU!"

LENIN'S
GHOST? HE
DID IT!

WE'RE
FINALLY IN
PARIS!

I WONDER IF
WE'LL EVER KNOW WHAT'S
GOING TO HAPPEN AT
WINDAGORE?

AND TO WELL, NOW IF YOU
PICK UP: DISCKILLER
ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

BELIEVE ME,
MEGGAN -- IF EXODUS
IS VICTORIOUS...

... WE
WILL. ®

WELL,
THAT WAS SOME
ROLLER COASTER
RIDE!

READY FOR THE ONES
AT DUDLEYWORLD?

SLAP

FOR MORE ON OUR HEROES'
**ADVENTURE IN THE
CITY OF LOVE--**

CHECK OUT THE
**COLOSSUS
ONE-SHOT!**

AND
COME
BACK
NEXT
MONTH
AS

**PETE WISDOM'S PAST
CATCHES UP TO HIM...
WITH A VENGEANCE!**

SWORDSTROKES

Swordstrokes

I haven't read an issue of EXCALIBUR for about 4 years, now (I left when Alan Davis did), but since these three issues focused on Captain Britain — my favorite of the group — I thought I'd pick them up.

The team has changed quite a bit: Colossus and Wolfsbane are now part of the team, as is this new guy, Pete Wisdom. Kurt has a new haircut and costume, Megan has decided to show off her cleavage, and a whole lot more, besides. What's more, the team is fully part of X-Men continuity, something they were only on the peripheral edge of before (and something that I really LIKED about the book).

All in all, I'm not sure I like this new team. Part of it might be the writing; I find the book suffers from something all the X-titles seem to: an excess of words. I mean, why use one when four or five will do? Everyone explains who they are, what their powers are (or, conveniently, someone else's), and so forth. I know this is to help the casual reader, but people don't tend to think and talk that way. (At least, not in my experience. Is this an American habit?)

As for the story itself, I found it somewhat interesting. The Dragons of the Crimson Dawn don't appeal to me as villains, and what they don't seem to be very good at what they're doing, since both Betsy (I'm gathering) and Spiral — though bearing their mark — don't seem to have any great obligation to help them.

It's not that I think Ben Raab is a bad writer, however, I just feel that he is doing nothing that is novel or creative. He's just following the "lido," if you will,

of what has gone before. Nothing sets EXCALIBUR apart from any of the other X-titles any more. It's too bad.

I AM glad you didn't kill Brian, however (I was afraid that was going to happen, after reading the letters page in issue #109), or

turn him into a villain. It was also great to see that he'd taken his name back. (I flipped through an EXCALIBUR a couple of years ago, and found that he was calling himself something else. I put the book back down very quickly.) Maybe he can make a comeback in his own book. What is Alan Davis doing these days?

In a way, Brian's leaving is rather ironic. According to what I've heard, Colossus was originally supposed to be part of the team, but was considered redundant, since Captain Britain was already the powerhouse of the team. With Brian gone, Peter (or Piotr, as he's called these days) can finally take his place on the team.

I wish I could say I enjoyed the story more. This title was one of my favorites, once upon a time, and when I saw the old Captain Britain "diamond" symbol, I was expecting great things. Unfortunately, things were only "okay."

Michael Stark
Mackenzie, B.C.
Canada

Sorry the three-part "Dragons" story arc didn't "wow" you, Michael! You're right; we do need to reiterate certain points each and every issue so that the casual reader can understand what's going on, but our new gatefold covers seem like they should help to alleviate that problem at least somewhat, don'tcha think?

We're glad that you liked the fact that Brian took his old code name back! He just wasn't himself as Britannic, and the old boy's trying to put that part of his life behind him. And Captain Britain as a villain? Never happen, uh-uh, no way, no how. He's a good guy at heart, and we intend to keep him that way (even if he isn't an active member of the team right now!)

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

Darn! When Barak first appeared with the rest of the Dragons, I was already anticipating a showdown between him and Colossus. But thanks to Spiral's intervention, we'll never know if the strongest mutant on Earth could have taken out the largest of the Dragons! How about a proper rematch some time soon?

One more thing: in one scene, A'yn cast a cloud of gas on Excalibur and had everyone choking on it...including

Colossus! How can that be since Colossus has no respiratory needs? My attempt at a no-prize is to say that Colossus does take the occasional breath when he feels like it (especially when he wants to talk), so that explains the mouthful of gas he took in.

Well, you should be able to tell by now that I'm a big fan of the gentle giant, so you can imagine how ecstatic I am to hear about the COLOSSUS one-shot you have in store for us. I wonder what you will be dealing with in that story; Peter's new love life, perhaps? Can't wait to get my hands on it!

Finally — and I want to spell this out explicitly — the new creative team has been a success! The first story arc proved just that, and I'm looking forward to more excitement and adventure spanning the globe. Thanks!

David Newbold
Long Eaton, Nottingham
England

A rematch between Colossus and Barak? Not anytime soon, but we're sure they'd both like a shot at each other! As for your Colossus/poisonous gas theory, you're absolutely right! Colossus doesn't need to breathe, but he naturally inhales and exhales as a reflex. Therefore, when A'yn took him by surprise, he took a really big whiff o' gas! Great thinking, David, but you're gonna have to explain an unexplained "continuity glitch" that's a little closer to a mistake to get a famed No-Prize out of us! And since we don't make mistakes, you really have your work cut out for you.

And since you're such a huge Colossus fan, we're sure you'll enjoy the COLOSSUS one-shot, coming out this summer! And we hope you like the lovely Megan, 'cause she's gonna be co-starring with the man of organic steel. And as for Colossus' love-life, let's just say that you might see an old flame of his from way back when he was a brand-spankin'-new X-Man! See ya then!

NEXT ISSUE

PETE WISDOM HELD CAPTIVE! COLOSSUS AND MEGAN BACK FROM HIS ONE-SHOT! LOCKHEED RESURFACES! AND KITTY PRIDE IS OFF TO BECOME AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.! ALL THAT IN JUST 22 PAGES! IN ONLY 30 DAYS!

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